

## Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SP-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-20 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 L-03 DRC-01 /144 W  
----- 038004

R 080652Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5642

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 6474

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, PK

SUBJ: PAKISTAN ADOPTS METRIC SYSTEM

SUMMARY. ON JULY 1, 1974, GOP ANNOUNCED TIMETABLE TO CONVERT TO METRIC SYSTEM. CHANGE OVER BEGINS IMMEDIATELY FOR PAKISTAN INTERNATIONAL AIRWAYS AND GOP SCIENTIFIC LABORATORIES. FOR OTHER GOVERNMENT ENTITIES SWITCH WILL OCCUR AT STAGGERED SIX MONTHS INTERVALS OVER NEXT FOUR YEARS, WITH PROCESS TO BE COMPLETED BY JULY 1, 1978. CON GEN KARACHI REPORTS THAT CHANGE OVER SHOULD HAVE NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON US TRADE AND COMMERCIAL INTERESTS IN PAKISTAN. END SUMMARY.

1. THE LAW TO INTRODUCE METRIC SYSTEM WAS PASSED IN 1967 WITH CONVERSION ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR 1969. FOR VARIOUS REASONS ACTION WAS POSTPONED UNTIL NOW. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT STATES THAT CHANGE OVER WILL START IMMEDIATELY WITH PIA AND GOP SCIENTIFIC LABORATORIES. OTHER GOP ENTITIES WILL SWITCH OVER THEREAFTER AT SIX MONTHS INTERVALS WITH COMPLETION DATE FOR ALL SECTORS SET FOR JULY 1, 1978. TO EDUCATE PUBLIC ABOUT NEW SYSTEM MINISTRY  
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INFORMATION HAS ESTABLISHED SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHARGED

WITH THIS FUNCTION.

2. COMMENT. CONGEN KARACHI REPORTS THAT COVERSON SHOULD HAVE NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON US TRADE OR OTHER COMMERCIAL INTERESTS IN PAKISTAN. A COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY BY CONGEN OF LOCAL AGENTS HANDLING WIDE RANGE OF AMERICAN IMPORTS INCLUDING LABORATORY EQUIPMENT AND MEASURING INSTRUMENTS, HEAVY CONSTRUCTION AND EARTHMOVING MACHINERY, ELECTRONICS AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT INDICATES THAT CHANGE OVER SHOULD NOT MATERIALLY EFFECT US EXPORTS. ACCORDING THESE TRADE SOURCES, MOST AMERICAN EXPORTERS SHIPPING TO PAKISTAN ARE ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH METRIC SYSTEM IN OTHER MARKETS. AS REGARDS US MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS IN KARACHI AREA CONGEN ALSO ANTICIPATE NO ADVERSE EFFECTS ON THEIR OPERATIONS, FOR EXAMPLE US PHARMACEUTICAL FIRMS EXPECT THAT CHANGE OVER WILL RESULT ONLY IN SOME SLIGHT INCREASE IN PAPERWORK TO CONVERT LOCAL REPORTS AND FIGURES TO US MEASUREMENTS FOR US HOME OFFICE CONSUMPTION. US OIL COMPANIES ESTIMATE THEY WILL BE ABLE TO CONVERT TO METRIC SYSTEM AT ESTIMATED COST OF DOLS 50,000 PER COMPANY. TECHNICAL TEAMS SUPPORTING DC-10 AIRCRAFT AT PIA REPORT THAT DC-10 MANUALS ARE ALREADY CONVERTED TO METRIC SYSTEM. ALTHOUGH UNVERIFIED, CONGEN UNDERSTANDS BOEING TECHNICAL MANUALS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE IN METRIC SYSTEM.

3. THE PAKISTANI PRESS HAS GENERALLY LAUDED SHIFT TO METRIC SYSTEM AND EMBASSY HAS NOTED NO ADVERSE COMMENT FROM AMONG PAKISTANI CONTACTS.  
BYROADE

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** STANDARDS, UNITS OF MEASUREMENT  
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**TAGS:** EFIN, PK  
**To:** STATE  
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